

REMARKS

A petition and fee for a two-month extension of time to respond to the pending Office Action are being submitted concurrently herewith.

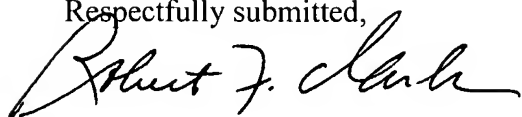
Claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 11-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 03/025089 and JP 2003-82344.

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 03/025089 and JP 2003-82344.

A declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 is enclosed with this Response. The Applicants respectfully assert that the 1.131 declaration establishes a reduction-to-practice of the invention in the U.S. on a date that is prior to the effective dates of WO 03/025089 and JP 2003-82344. As such; the Applicants respectfully assert that these two references are not available as prior art against the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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